

1 15. (Amended) A method for detecting a seal on a
2 moving film, comprising;
3 creating a force when the film moves relative to a
4 sensor;
5 providing a force signal responsive to the seal;
6 and
7 detecting the force and providing a seal signal in
8 response thereto.

1 24. (Amended) An apparatus for detecting a seal on a
2 moving film, comprising;
3 means for providing a force signal in response to
4 the seal and a force, wherein the force is created when the
5 film moves;
6 means for detecting the force signal, coupled to
7 the means for providing a force signal; and
8 means for providing a seal signal in response to
9 the force signal, coupled to the means for detecting.

1 32. (Amended) A machine, comprising;
2 a force transmitter, disposed to transmit a force
3 responsive to a seal on a bag, wherein the force is created
4 as the bag moves relative to the transmitter;
5 a force sensor disposed to receive the transmitted
6 force and provide a force signal in response thereto;
7 at least one upstream processing device, located
8 upstream of the force transmitter;
9 at least one downstream processing device, located
10 downstream of the force transmitter; and
11 a controller, disposed to receive the force signal
12 and provide a seal signal in response thereto.

1 43. (Amended) A method for processing a bag,
2 comprising;
3 transporting the film from a first processing
4 device to a seal sensing location, and past the seal sensing
5 location;
6 providing a force signal responsive to the seal
7 and a force at the seal sensing location, wherein the force
8 is created by the seal moving;
9 detecting the force and providing a seal signal in
10 response thereto;
11 transporting the film to a second processing
12 device.